

Committee, group or subgroup: Road Safety Group
Meeting Date & venue: Monday 28th April 2025, 10.00am @ SPC Office
Report author: Cllr A Sharp - chairman
<p><u>Present:</u> A Sharp (AS), M. Alessi, M Buller (MB) Speedwatch Rep. and SID data expert).</p> <p><u>Apologies:</u> Chris Rhodes, Mike Wakeford, Bill McLaughlin (BM),</p> <p><u>Matters Arising:</u> - Monday 17th March 2025 Minutes agreed</p> <p><u>1. Clerks feedback RG:</u></p> <p>a. School & SPC & Police; Following the meeting there is a joint effort to address parking issues. Full council approved a letter to go to residents in adjoining streets - volunteers to deliver. RG will liaise with the school to see if they are being able to do what they agreed to do – communication with parents and walking bus (we have not been updated) Also with MBC to check that the parking officers will be there w/c 19th May, and police as well. Cllrs will be present too. Publicity social media and posters - Jean.</p> <p>b. A229 Cranbrook Road –RG and AS met with Greg McNichol and Amy Cartwright from Kent Highways. Amy seemed more sympathetic to a crossing than the previous crew. Conversations suggested that previous engineer (temp) had over designed the whole road scheme. Transport splay observations had been carried out. Necessity for junctions in situ where bus tops are and the garage access to be considered. The funding is from SPC not KH from our S106 funds for improvements for bus services – i.e. we desire a safe crossing to the bus stops.</p> <p>We were informed that items on our HIP basically translates to £600 = £1000 per parish a year to spend. 2025 – 26</p> <p>We discussed the ‘Elderly person crossing sign’ which they seemed interested to deliver.</p> <p>c. “30mph limit, not a target” sign – to go to Hurst Close to attach to anything NOT a KCC road structure. Will be there a few months then moved so doesn’t become background wallpaper.</p> <p>2. Neighbourhood Watch – Facebook page. (No longer an RSG item.)</p> <p>3. <u>Gybbon Rise / Surrenden Road Primary School Drop off / pick up</u></p> <p>As per clerk’s report above.</p> <p>Note - SPC have no powers regarding parking enforcement and neither does the school.</p> <p>It is legal to park on the public highway, as long as no dangerous driving or blocking of the road.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> see clerks report above.</p> <p>4. <u>Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)</u> – standing item – Kent Highways contact: Greg McNicholl & Amy Cartwright.</p> <p><i>Please note previous directive that MBC only allow us to have 2 'live' projects and our other projects / wish list are 'archived' is not accurate. We are told that ALL HIP requests should be on the HIP document, ideally in order of our preferred importance. In which case we could add Sainsburys roundabout and the crossroads again.</i></p> <p>Greg sent us the version that he has at Kent Highways for us to tweak.</p> <p>It’s dated 25.9.23 1. A229 parking issues 2. A229 crossing and improve bus stops 3. School roads 20mph and is not the latest version we have sent,</p> <p>Agreed still comfortable to continue with the HIP that Full Council agreed fairly recently:-</p> <p><u>HIP 1 The Quarter - Bus stop / crossing & 30mph / elderly crossing sign</u></p> <p><u>Action:</u> re send the agreed version to Kent Highways</p> <p><u>HIP 2 Hawkenbury Bridge</u> - The bridge with no accidents – accident that closed the bridge and police attended on Thursday 24th April evening. Previous damage to bridge still not rectified as yellow plastic barrier fence still in situ</p> <p><u>Background</u> – It’s a grade 2 listed bridge so can’t demolish and rebuild wider.</p> <p>We would need to be gifted some land to enable the widening of the bridge.</p> <p>There is no good, easy electrical provision. (we note there are houses next to it with electricity).</p> <p>Need some way to indicate to traffic going over the railway bridge they could be about to encounter stationary traffic;</p>

could this be achieved by a higher traffic light indicator?

There is historical precedence - Wye bridge grade 2 listed bridge, close to a railway crossing, was widened to comply with EU regulations of width and weight needs. However a house was demolished providing the extra space needed. Looking at £100,000 to £150,00 to install power.

Action: It remains on HIP and we will continue to liaise with Headcorn PC and monitor crashes.

HIP 3 Double yellow lines (DYL) on main road A229 and Chapel Lane extension, single lines (SYL) on Cornforth Close, Chestnut Avenue and Poyntell Road. Hurst Close & Newlyn Drive

Kent Highways have previously said that they will not do this as there are no current road safety issues.

Discussed that even after Churchill development is built, this remains on the HIP as there is likely to be a lot of vehicle movement around the site and we believe that there will be safety issues.

Action: remains on HIP

Headcorn Lay by – this is maintenance Kent Highways issue not HIP item.

Action: Suggested we contact Maintenance again. In the meantime the response for parishioners re this matter is:-

Over the past 2 years the Parish council has been raising this issue with Kent Highways Maintenance. Its KH land, and as such we have been told not to touch it and that the public should not be parking there. We have exhausted all avenues to try and improve this area but will continue to lobby them.

5. SID – permission at Headcorn Road, Marden Road, Bathurst Road sites. Best sites Headcorn Rd and incoming Marden.

Note - the camera should ideally change every 2 weeks and should not stay in the same location longer than 3 weeks.

Batteries last 5 – 11 days depending on traffic going past i.e. drain quicker on Headcorn Rd

Headcorn Road facing east for 2 weeks (some leeway allowing up to 3 weeks subject

Headcorn Road facing west for 2 weeks to availability to turn the camera.)

Bathurst Road for 1 week (this should ideally be 1 in term time / 1 in holidays)

Marden Road facing west for 1 week

Marden Road facing east for 2 weeks

Finally came back and was put on Headcorn Rd, incoming traffic. Now on Marden Road. Data received so far below. SIDs absence seems to have been noted as on its return there seems to be an increase in speeding.

Action: monitor data

ANALYSIS OF SID DEPLOYMENTS

2024

DATE started	ROAD used	FACING DIRECTION	TRAVEL TOWARDS	DA YS USED	VOLUM E RECOR DED	AVERA GE VOLU ME	UND ER 30m ph	% und er	OVE R 30m ph	% ove r	High speeders		per day	per site
											45-59	60+		
23/08/2024	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	6	15633	2606	9273	59.32	6360	40.68	66		3	11.5
29/08/2024	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	6	18624	3104	11396	61.19	7228	38.81	71		0	11.83
09/11/2024	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	7	18690	2670	11752	62.88	6938	37.12	55		2	8.14
16/11/2024	Head corn	east	Staple hurst	4	9634	2409	5926	61.51	3708	38.49	31		0	7.75

fail
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fail
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ANALYSIS OF SID DEPLOYMENTS

2025

DATE	ROAD	FACIN G	TRAVE L	DAYS	VOLU ME	AVER AGE	UND ER	%	OVE R	%		High speeder s	pe r da y	pe r sit e
started	used	DIREC TION	TOWA RDS	USED	RECO RDED	VOLU ME	30m ph	un der	30m ph	ov er		45-59	60+	
13/03/ 2025	Headc orn	east	Staple hurst	8	21361	2670	1148 1	53. 75	9880	46. 25		11 5	0	14. 38
21/03/ 2025	Headc orn	east	Staple hurst	6	16338	2723	8688	53. 18	7650	46. 82		86	0	14. 33
27/03/ 2025	Headc orn	east	Staple hurst	7	20312	2902	8984	44. 23	1132 8	55. 77		14 8	2	21. 43
	Headc orn	east	Staple hurst											16. 71

6. Speedwatch

Saturday 3rd May MB is holding a refresher training session – As previously stated, some volunteers have declined to continue. At 80 yrs old, volunteers are no longer insured via Police (they can continue at their own risk). Sadly this means we have lost some of our most experienced older cohort of volunteers.

Action: Suggested we advertise in the next update.

Auto Speed watch –

7. Accidents/incidents reported – staplehurstroadinfo@gmail.com

Verbal comment only, accident that closed the Hawkenbury bridge and police attended on Thursday 24th April evening. Previous damage to bridge still not rectified as yellow plastic barrier fence still in situ

Action: promote the accident email – Jean website and FB?

8. Hedges – Hedges letter agreed at full council – Nesting season March to August. Can report to KH if there is a dangerous hedge.

Action: – none currently.

9. AOB: none

Dates of forthcoming meetings: Next meeting 10am Monday, 26th June 2025